

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended) A method for preparation of a modified host cell comprising:

a) transfecting a host cell with a plasmid containing an expression cassette which is covalently coupled to where the plasmid is labeled with a fluorescent label that provides a non-inheritable trait to the host cell,

b) isolating the transfected host cell by detecting the fluorescent label and then separating fluorescent host cells which were transfected from non-fluorescent host cells which were not transfected,

c) culturing the transfected host cell such that fluorescently-labeled polynucleotide integrates into the host cell's cell genome,

d) multiplying the transfected host cell which has polynucleotide integrated ~~in its~~ into the genome such that to dilute the fluorescent label ~~is diluted and lost in~~ and lose the label in the transfected host cell progeny of the transfected host cell, and

e) isolating from non-labeled progeny of the transfected host cell a modified host cell having a changed metabolic property as compared to the host cell prior to transfection.

16. (currently amended) A method for preparation of a desired metabolite by a modified host cell comprising:

a) preparing a modified host cell according to claim 15 wherein said expression cassette ~~is involved in production of~~ produces the desired metabolite,

b) culturing the modified host cell in broth under conditions wherein the desired metabolite is produced, and

c) isolating the desired metabolite from the ~~culture~~ broth.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the desired metabolite is a primary metabolite.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the desired metabolite is an amino acid, a steroid or a nucleotide.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the desired metabolite is a secondary metabolite.

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the desired secondary metabolite is an antibiotic, a vitamin, ~~an anti-infective~~, a macrolide, a polyketide, a pheromone, an alkaloid or a drug.

Claim 21-26 (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the expression cassette does not comprise an antibiotic or other selection marker which is an inheritable trait.

28. (currently amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein RNA and protein expression levels ~~are altered~~ in the modified host cell ~~as compared to~~ are different to the RNA and protein expression levels in the non-modified host cell.

29. (currently amended) A method for preparation of a modified host cell comprising:

a) transfecting host cells with a plasmid containing an expression cassette to ~~which a fluorescent label is covalently coupled~~ where the plasmid is labeled with a fluorescent label;

b) separating transfected host cells, which contain the fluorescent label, from non-transfected host cells, which do not contain the fluorescent label, by detection of the fluorescent label; and

c) isolating a modified host cell from the separated and transfected host cells, wherein the expression cassette integrates into the modified host cell's cell genome thereby permanently changing a metabolic property of transfected host cells as compared to non-transfected host cells.

30. (currently amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein the transfected host cells are cultured between their separation and isolation under

~~proliferating conditions between their separation and isolation to allow protein~~  
expression.

31. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein the modified host cell is not isolated by selection with an antibiotic or another marker which is an inheritable trait.

32. (currently amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein RNA and protein expression levels ~~are altered~~ in the modified host cell ~~as compared to~~ are different to the RNA and protein expression levels in the non-modified host cell.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein the modified host cell is a prokaryotic cell, a eukaryotic cell, a mammalian cell or a plant cell.

34. (currently amended) A method for preparation of a modified host cell comprising:

a) transfecting host cells with a plasmid containing an expression cassette to ~~which where the plasmid is labeled with~~ a fluorescent label ~~is covalently coupled~~;

b) separating transfected host cells, which contain the fluorescent label, from non-transfected host cells, which do not contain the fluorescent label, by detection of the fluorescent label;

c) culturing the host cells containing the fluorescent label under ~~proliferating~~ conditions ~~which dilute, whereby the fluorescent label is diluted and lost in~~ lose the label in the fluorescent label-containing host cell progeny of the fluorescent label-containing host cells; and

d) isolating a modified host cell from the cultured host cells, wherein a metabolic property of the modified host cell is permanently changed as compared to the non-transfected host cell.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the modified host cell is not isolated by selection with an antibiotic or another marker that is an inheritable trait.

36. (currently amended) The method according to claim 34, wherein RNA and protein expression levels ~~are altered in the modified host cell as compared to~~ are different to the RNA and protein expression levels in the non-modified host cell.

37. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the modified host cell is a prokaryotic cell, a eukaryotic cell, a mammalian cell or a plant cell.